

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 12812 231727Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 ITC-01 CTME-00
AGRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 /151 W
-----087079 240504Z /15

R 231145Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3558
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12812

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ESCAP, OCON, ETRD
SUBJECT: ESCAP MEETING OF MINISTERS OF TRADE

REF: NEW DELHI 12634

1. SUMMARY: MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING CONCLUDED AFTER TWO AND HALF DAYS OF GENERAL DEBATE WITH ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS (SEE SEPTTEL) WORKED OUT BY SENIOR TRADE OFFICIALS IN PREVIOUS WEEK. RECURRING THEME IN STATEMENTS WAS PROTECTIONISM OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND CONSEQUENT NEED FOR GREATER INTRA-LDC AND REGIONAL COOPERATION. HOWEVER, PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL TRADE EXPANSION APPROVED BY MEETING HAS LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE OUTSIDE THE FORMATION OF TRADE COOPERATION GROUP (TCG). THERE WAS NEARLY UNIVERSAL EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING REGIONAL PROGRAM, AND ALLOWING COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE ONLY IN THOSE COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM WHICH THEY WISHED TO IMPLEMENT. MEMBERSHIP OF TCG NEVER BECAME AN ISSUE. END SUMMARY

2. MINISTERIAL-LEVEL PART OF SPECIAL ESCAP MEETING TO FORMU-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 12812 231727Z

LATE PROGRAM OF INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE COOPERATION CONSISTED OF LONG SERIES OF FORMAL STATEMENTS BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS. MOST REPRESENTATIVES WERE AT MINISTERIAL OR VICE-MINISTERIAL LEVEL. UNCTAD WAS REPRESENTED BY SEC GEN COREA. STATEMENTS IN MOST CASES CONSISTED OF COMMENTS ON GENERAL STATE OF WORLD ECONOMY, CONSEQUENT NEED FOR AND DESIRABILITY OF GREATER INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE, AND THEN

COMMENTS ON EACH OF EIGHT MAJOR ELEMENTS OF "BLUEPRINT" PREPARED BY ESCAP SECRETARIAT. AFTER ABOUT THIRTY DELEGATIONS HAD HAD THEIR SAY, MEETING ADOPTED RECOMMENDATIONS PREPARED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS WITH NO CHANGE. PRIME MINISTER DESAI INAUGURATED MEETING STRESSING SLOW PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS LAID OUT IN IDS AND NIEO, PROTECTIONISM OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND FAILURE OF LDC'S THEMSELVES TO DO WHAT THEY SHOULD IN REACHING THEIR DEVELOPMENT TARGETS. HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER STATEMENTS WERE:

3. VIRTUALLY EVERY LDC STATEMENT DECRIED GROWING PROTECTIONISM OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND DIFFICULTIES THIS (ALONG WITH SLOW GROWTH BY DC'S) POSES FOR LDC EXPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. THIS THEME WAS ALSO ECHOED BY AUSTRALIA, WHICH MADE VERY PESSIMISTIC STATEMENT ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR MTN. US AND EC REPS RESPONDED IN THEIR STATEMENTS BY POINTING OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES WERE STRONG, NUMBER OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ACTUALLY IMPOSED WAS RELATIVELY FEW.

4. NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO DANGERS OF CONCEPTS OF SELECTIVITY (KOREA, THAILAND) AND GRADUATION (MALAYSIA SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF ASEAN, INDIA) BEING PURSUED IN MTN. THESE WERE ALSO DOMINANT PREOCCUPATIONS OF LDC DELEGATIONS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF MTN.

5. NEARLY ALL STATEMENTS ENDORSED GRADUAL AND FLEXIBLE AP-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 12812 231727Z

PROACH TO IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM, ALLOWING COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE ONLY IN THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM WHICH THEY WISHED TO PURSUE.

6. IT WAS AGREED THAT TCG WOULD BE ESTABLISHED PRIOR TO NEXT ESCAP COMMISSION MEETING (PRESENT SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 1979), AND THAT SUB-GROUPS OF TCG WOULD BE FORMED FOR EACH OF MAJOR ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM. MEMBERSHIP OF TCG NEVER BECAME AN ISSUE DURING DEBATE. CONSEQUENTLY TCG REMAINS OPEN TO ALL ESCAP MEMBER AND ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES, WHILE SUB-GROUPS WOULD BE OPEN TO ANY COUNTRIES WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN IMPLEMENTING ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM.

7. THE ONLY ELEMENT OF THE PROGRAM WHICH ACHIEVED UNIVERSAL SUPPORT WAS TRADE INFORMATION NETWORK. MANY DELEGATIONS ALSO SUPPORTED HARMONIZATION OF CUSTOMS NOMENCLATURES AND TRADE STATISTICS, WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF ASEAN WHICH CONSIDERED SUCH A PROJECT PREMATURE. PROMOTION OF JOINT VENTURES AND LONG-TERM CONTRACTS WAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY ALL DELEGATIONS, WITH SOME (INCLUDING ASEAN AND SRI LANKA) STRESSING THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR ORIENTATION OF THEIR ECONOMIES LIMITED THE SCOPE OF THESE TWO ELEMENTS. MONETARY AND

EXPORT CREDIT COOPERATION WAS MENTIONED BY MANY DELEGATIONS, BUT ONLY INDIA PLACED MAJOR EMPHASIS ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PROGRAM. THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT CONSIDERATION OF INTRA-REGIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ON TARIFFS AND NTB'S WAS PREMATURE AT THIS TIME, AT LEAST UNTIL THE MTN IS CONCLUDED. MANY DELEGATIONS MENTIONED THEIR SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL MEASURES FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BUT NO CONCRETE PROPOSALS WERE ADVANCED.

8. TENSION BETWEEN ASEAN AND THOSE COUNTEIS (PARTICULARLY INDIA) PUSHING FOR BROADER GROUPING - WHICH WAS EVIDENT AT OFFICIALS MEETING - WAS MUTED BUT STILL PERCEPTIBLE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. HOWEVER, BOTH SIDES APPEARED PLEASED WITH STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WHICH HAD EVOLVED DURING SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 NEW DE 12812 231727Z

IALS MEETING.

9. CHINA PLAYED UNUSUALLY ACTIVE ROLE IN BOTH SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. TONE OF ITS INTERVENTIONS WAS GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE AND SUPPORTIVE OF POINTS MADE BY LDC'S OF REGION. RITUALISTIC ATTACK ON USSR WAS IGNORED BY SOVIET UNION BUT MONGOLIA MILDLY REBUKED CHINA FOR INJECTING POLITICS INTO DEBATE ON ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS.
GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, MEETING REPORTS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE12812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780346-0162
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780833/aaaabbel.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5fc8305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 12634
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1648592
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESCAP MEETING OF MINISTERS OF TRADE
TAGS: OCON, ETRD, IN, ESCAP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5fc8305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014